

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	22201	Agenda Number	10.
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Meeting Date:	3/7/2013	Department:	Austin Water Utility
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Subject

Authorize the execution of an Interlocal Agreement with Travis County to provide joint funding for the completion of an Austin-Travis County Community Wildfire Protection Plan in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

The City will fund up to \$100,000 for the cost of consultant services with \$50,000 of currently budgeted funds from Austin Water Utility and \$50,000 in currently budgeted funds from Austin Fire Department. Travis County will provide \$100,000 from the County's current budget.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	William Conrad, 972-1661; Denise Avery, 972-0104
Boards and Commission Action:	Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission and Public Safety Commission.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

This Interlocal agreement will be for the remainder of fiscal year 2012-2013. It provides for the City to contribute up to \$100,000, and Travis County to provide up to \$100,000 for the completion of a regional Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Austin and Travis County.

The purpose of this Interlocal Agreement is to provide a mechanism to transfer funds from Travis County to the City and complete the CWPP.

Following catastrophic wildfires in and around Austin in 2011, staff members from the City and County organized the Austin-Travis County Joint Wildfire Task Force. Members of the task force determined that one critical need for the area was a detailed science-based analysis of specific wildfire risks and threats, detailed descriptions and specifications for best management practices that would mitigate risk and remove threats, and a process to implement this action at the small community and neighborhood level. Community Wildfire Protections Plans are defined in the Federal

Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003.

After several attempts by task force members to develop a regional CWPP, members learned that the task was complex and members had too little experience to do this job in-house. Task force members agreed to use a request for proposals to solicit a consultant with appropriate experience to complete this CWPP. In the joint task force, City staff offered funds from their proposed 2013 budgets to fund this endeavor. Travis County Commissioners Court made a similar commitment. The City agreed to solicit proposals and administer the consulting contract.